

First Thoughts

In his article, "The Death of Gratitude in the American Classroom" Jeremy Adams writes:

"Encouraging people to be gracious, and to recognize what others have provided them through no merit of their own, is not about 'guilt-tripping' them. It is to encourage a particular way of existing in the world. Gratitude acknowledges the plenitude of goodness that surrounds us every moment of every day in millions of small acts of people we do not know."

After a long and arduous journey through 2021, we find ourselves in the season of Advent and nearing the stillness and simplicity of that manger in Bethlehem. Part of our worship and preparation will involve lighting candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love as we rejoice in the "the Word becoming flesh and dwelling among us."

I can't help thinking about how this year compares to last year. For me, the last two weeks of 2020 meant being in isolation with the COVID virus—it meant my calling Jason to step in for the Christmas Eve service. The weather that evening also required us to go 'online only.' I experienced Christmas Eve via my laptop while the snow fell outside the windows; memorable for sure but in an unexpected way.

That's what Christmas is about. I suspect many of you could say similar things about how unexpected your life has been this year. Still, we've come a long way together as a church family. While there are ongoing evidences of the pandemic as well as new challenges before us, there is also the glimmer of hope that better days are ahead.

I'm confident this is true for our church too. There's a renewed sense of energy and purpose as decisions are being made to position us well for ministry for the upcoming year. It's wonderful to see persons getting involved in leadership, ministry, and missions. Remember that your prayers, attendance, and financial support are an encouragement and making a difference in our church and community.

Finally, keep in mind the meaningful worship and fellowship opportunities available during Advent—I hope you'll take advantage of them.

The holiday season always brings about a variety of emotions. Some of you are excited about these days while others are experiencing Christmas without a loved one—perhaps for the first time. It's important to be mindful of this as we share life together.

My family and I are grateful to celebrate this Advent season with you. Through "no merit of our own" God has been gracious to us. We are glad to be part of Clinton and to call First Baptist our church home. So, on behalf of Lori, Cally, Lucy, and Matt, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Pastor Danny



Grades 6 - 12
Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
 Dinner is available at **6:00 p.m.** in the Youth Room.
No Refuge 12/22 or 12/29

Youth Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 15
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
 FLC Youth Room
 Bring a White Elephant Gift.
 Dinner will be provided.

Youth Christmas Shopping Trip

Saturday, December 18
9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 Lunch will be provided.

FBC Kids

Wednesdays
6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.
 Music, Crafts, Bible Story
 Dinner is available at **5:30 p.m.** in the FBC Kids room.
No FBC Kids 12/22 or 12/29
 Follow us on Facebook @FBCKidsClinton



FBC Kids Christmas Program

Wednesday, December 8
6:00 p.m.
 Sanctuary

FBC Kids Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 15
5:30 p.m.

Clinton Upward

Upward Basketball and Cheer is for ages K4 - Grade 4. Practices will begin the week of January 3, 2022, and the first game will be Saturday, January 15, 2022. We will play every Saturday through March 5, 2022.

Window Decorating at the Waters

Wednesday, December 1 & Saturday, December 4
 Contact the Church Office to sign up to help.

Crafts at the Towers

Saturday, December 11
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
 Come fellowship and help with crafts and snacks at the Towers. Call the church office to sign up.

C.S.C. Christmas Food Box Distribution

Monday, December 20
Drive-Thru beginning at 9:00 a.m.
 First Come, First Serve
 (C.S.C. Closed on December 21)

Special Thanks to Food City!

James Garret accepted a check for \$2,000 on behalf of First Baptist Church, Christian Service Center from Food City.

Special Thanks to Willow Ridge Garden Center

for a \$500 donation to the Christian Service Center.

You're invited to Lisa Yates' Retirement Luncheon

Sunday, December 5
12:00 p.m.

Family Life Center, Gym
 RSVP to (865) 457-9353
 or email katrina@fbclinton.org



Deacon - Jill Whitaker

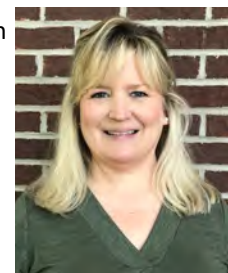
I was born in Dalton, Georgia, to Lamar and Josephine Suggs. Five years later my sister, Heather, joined us. My spiritual journey began early going to church with my parents, cousins, and friends. I made my public profession of faith when I was 12 years old at Grove Level Baptist Church.

My family moved to Clinton just after my sophomore year of high school. We joined First Baptist soon after moving to Clinton. I attended Carson-Newman College (now University) to get my BA degree in Elementary Education. I returned to Clinton and worked a few years before getting a job with Clinton City Schools teaching kindergarten. While teaching I got my Master's degree at Tennessee Tech, and moved on to teaching first grade. During this time, I also taught on many Wednesday nights, Vacation Bible Schools, and Sunday Schools at First Baptist.

I met my husband, Scott Whitaker, a few years after completing my master's degree. We had probably crossed paths many times, with him being in Oak Ridge's band and myself in Clinton's band. But God's plan was for us to meet after we were settled in careers, with a little help from my sister and friends. After almost four years of marriage, we welcomed our son, Sam (soon to be 18), and a little over a year later our daughter, Sophie (16). The Lord called Scott to Heaven three years later. Without God, the families of First Baptist Church, WEE Ministry, mine and Scott's families, and our friends we would not have made it through this difficult time. We are still here today because of the love and support we received from everyone involved in our lives at that time.

My mom, Jo Suggs, attends First Baptist with us. I just started my 32nd year in teaching with Clinton City Schools. Sam is a senior at Clinton High School and Sophie a junior.

Daily I thank God for his love and grace and the love and support I feel at First Baptist Church and my family and friends. I am honored to serve as a deacon to families at First Baptist.



Memorial Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary on December 12 are in honor of **David & Vicki Smith's** 50 years of marriage and in memory of **Charles and Flo Stansberry's** 81st anniversary, given by the Smith family.

The flowers in the Sanctuary on December 19 are in loving memory of **Mary McClanahan's** birthday which is December 19, given by her daughters, Janine and Jennifer and their families.

In Christian Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to the family of **Bettye Coker** (11/7) and to John Floyd, whose wife, **Mary Lou Floyd**, passed away (11/7).

Praise Team Auditions

The Praise Team is interested in finding instrumentalists and vocalists who are willing to serve by using their talents for the Lord. If you are interested in serving in the Praise Team, please email Marlon at marlon@fbclinton.org for information about the audition process.

A.V. Team Volunteers Needed

The Audio/Video Department is in search of volunteers that are willing to learn and serve in the contemporary and traditional worship services. No prior experience is required. If you are interested in serving on the A.V. Team, please email Marlon at marlon@fbclinton.org for information about becoming a volunteer.

Fabric Needed

Jean Webster needs fabric to make walker cadies. Fabric should be a cotton blend and needs to be a yard or more. Please drop off donations at the church office.

2022 Budget Vote

Sunday, December 5
8:30 a.m. & 10:40 a.m.

From the Pulpit

Sundays in December
8:30 a.m. & 10:40 a.m.
05 Matthew 2.13-18
12 Luke 1.26-38
19 Adult Choir program
26 Luke 2.15-20

Adult Bible Study

Wednesdays in December
6:30 p.m.
01 The book of Acts
08 Children's Program
15 Business Meeting
22 Christmas Break
29 Christmas Break

Deacons Meeting

Tuesday, December 13
5:30 p.m.
Sanctuary

Business Meeting

Wednesday, December 15
6:30 p.m.
Lower Auditorium

Schedule Changes

WEE is Closed Dec. 24-27 & 31. The Church Office and FLC are closed Dec. 24-28 & 31. There will be no Service or Activities on Dec. 22 & 29. Sanctuary Choir will have rehearsal on Dec. 22, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Spirit Sisters

(Widows Support Group)
Meetings are the 1st Monday, monthly at 6:00 p.m. in the FLC Hearth Room. Social outings will be on the 3rd Monday monthly.

Medic Blood Drive

Thursday, December 16
2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Family Life Center

Friendly Figures

October Financial Summary

Budget Receipts \$ 89,702
2021 Receipts/Wkly Avg. \$ 16,461
2021 Weekly Budget Req. \$ 17,878
Budget Expense \$ 80,843
October Deficit/Income \$ 8,859
2021 Deficit/Income (\$ 5,329)
TOTAL October 31 \$ 3,530

Thank you for your generous support of our church. You may continue to give online via the church website, by direct mail (P.O. Box 268, Clinton 37717) or by giving in person in the boxes provided.



Scan the QR Code
to Connect with
online giving.

Missions Goal

The Lottie Moon and Global Missions combined Goal is **\$8,000**.

Business Meeting Report

The October Financials and Minutes were approved. **Todd Temple** was added to the Children's Committee and **Angela Hamby** and **Kandi Alderson** were added to the Hostess Committee. **Lauren Neal** will continue as Interim Minister of Children through July 31, 2022. **Rev. Jason Taylor** is the new Minister of Young Adults and FLC Ministries effective January 1, 2022. He will transition out of his role as Minister of Students on December 31, 2021. The 2022 Proposed Budget was discussed.

CSC REPORT OCTOBER, 2021:

Served 129 individuals
13 Children
65 Adults
51 Seniors
4632 food items were distributed
178 clothing items and 26 misc. items

Deacon Eligibility List

If you like your name removed from the 2022 Deacon Eligibility List that will be mailed out the first week in January, please contact Katrina in the church office as soon as possible.

THE FRIENDLY GUIDE • PO BOX 268 • CLINTON, TN • (865) 457-9353
POSTMASTER: Please send change of address notices to The Friendly Guide
PO Box 268, Clinton, TN 37717. Friendly Guide (USPS #210-520) published monthly
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paid at Clinton, TN



Jacob & Madison Floyd dedicated themselves and their children, Pressley and Beau to the Lord on Sunday, November 21.

Christmas Memorials Poinsettias \$10 Wreaths \$25



Memorial
for: _____

Given
by: _____

Amount Given: _____

Mail to FBC, P.O. Box 268
Clinton, TN 37717



~ FRIENDLY GUIDE - DECEMBER 2021 ~

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CLINTON, TENNESSEE

Christmas at FBC!

Lisa Yates' Retirement Luncheon

Sunday, December 5, 12:00 p.m.
Family Life Center

Children's Christmas Program

Wednesday, December 8, 6:00 p.m.
Sanctuary

Images of Christmas

Adult Choir Christmas Cantata
Sunday, December 19, 10:40 a.m.
Sanctuary

Christian Service Center Christmas Food Box Distribution

Monday, December 20, Drive-Thru beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Longest Night Service

Tuesday, December 21, 5:26 p.m.
Sanctuary

Christmas Eve Service

Friday, December 24, 5:00 p.m.
Sanctuary